



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,997	06/29/2001	Martin Bondo Jorgensen	0459-0625P	5697
30593	7590	09/29/2006	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 8910 RESTON, VA 20195			LE, HUYEN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2615	

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/893,997	JORGENSEN ET AL.
	Examiner HUYEN D. LE	Art Unit 2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,6,8-12,14-28 and 30-35 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-16,18-28,30-33 and 35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,6,8-12,17 and 34 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 14-16, 18-28, 30-33 and 35 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 17 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Killion (U.S. patent 5,524,056).

Regarding claims 1-4, 6, 17 and 34, Killion teaches a microphone assembly (figures 1 and 16-20) for mounting in an electronic communication device (figures 18, 19). As shown in figures 18-20, the microphone assembly comprises one or more sound inlet ports (440, 400, 400', 415, 415'), one or more microphones (15, 20, 65, 70, 445, 450) and one or more controlling devices (55, 395, 395', 410, 435, 475, 480, 485) for controlling the operation of the microphone assembly. As shown in the drawings, the inlet ports, the microphones and the controlling devices are combined to form an integrated part of the microphone assembly (figures 18-20, the Applicant should also note the definition of the term “integrated” from the Webster’s II New Riverside University Dictionary).

Further, Killion teaches a casing (420, 425, 480, 485) that surrounds at least a part of the one or more sound inlet ports as claimed (figures 18, 19 and see col. 11, lines 49-57).

Regarding claim 8, as broadly claimed, Killion shows the controlling devices that are positioned to facilitate operation by applying a force to the integrated microphone assembly as claimed (figures 18, 19 and 20).

Regarding claims 9-10 and 12, as broadly claimed, it is inherent that the operations of the Killion hearing aid device comprises powering down (on/off) or activating (55, 435) the device.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 17 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruegg (U.S. patent 3,875,349).

Regarding claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 12, 17 and 34, Ruegg teaches a microphone assembly (figures 1 and 5) for mounting in an electronic communication device (hearing aid device). As shown in figure 5, the microphone assembly comprises one or more sound inlet ports (31, 32, 35, 36, 37), one or more microphones (38, 40) and one or more controlling devices (22, 33 36, 37) for controlling the operation of the assembly. As shown in the drawings, the inlet ports, the microphones and the controlling devices are combined to form an integrated part of the microphone assembly (figures 1-2 and 5, the Applicant should also note the definition of the term “integrated” from the Webster’s II New Riverside University Dictionary).

Further, Ruegg teaches a casing (27, 33) that surrounds at least a part of the one or more sound inlet ports as claimed (figure 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 11 and 12, as interpreted in a different manner, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Killion (U.S. patent 5,524,056) or Ruegg (U.S. patent 3,875,349).

Regarding claims 11 and 12, as interpreted in a different manner, Killion or Ruegg does not specifically show a push button, a tragus responsive switch, a turning knob, on/off switch or a volume control as claimed. However, the examiner takes the Office Notice that providing an on/off button or a knob for the switch, and/or a volume control in a hearing aid device is very well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide any type of switch such as a button or a knob and/or a volume control in the hearing aid of Killion or Ruegg for better adjusting and operating the device.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 6/27/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Responding to the arguments about the limitations of the casing that surrounds at least a part of the one or more sound inlet ports, the examiner has explained in detail in the Office Action. Further, the Applicant should note figure 5 in Ruegg and figures 18-19 in Killion.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN D. LE whose telephone number is (571) 272-7502. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SINH TRAN can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


HL
September 26, 2006


HUYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER